Tadepalligudem on National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh has been received and will be decided according to the instant policy.

Rural Telephone Projects

*93. DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD: SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural telephone projects proposed to be executed by March, 1997; and

(b) the approximate expenditure thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Details of rural Telephone projects and approximate expenditure thereof is as given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

Statement

Details of Rural Telephone Projects for 1996-97

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Telephone exchanges planned	VPDs	Approx. Expenditure (in Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	4000	83.2
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	4	201	1.7
3.	Assam	41	500	83.8
4.	Bihar	266	6500	79.2
5.	Gujarat	208	4000	117.5
6.	Haryana	235	357	108.0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	133	1000	65.0
8.	J&K	43	600	1.8
9.	Karnataka	210	3000	111.3
10.	Kerala	473	0	78.0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	261	9850	124.4
12.	Maharashtra	190	5000	71.6
13.	North East	57	1000	74.7
14.	Orissa	70	5000	89.7
15.	Punjab	50	4750	10.8
16.	Rajasthan	80	6500	57.0
17.	Tamilnadu	150	3200	89.9
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	211	9000	33.6
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	256	6000	97.5
20.	West Bengal	184	5000	43.4

Reviewing the Functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs

*94. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFAFIRS be plaesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is not only the recent Security Council fiasco but on several other issues like handling of Iran's initiative on Afgan crisis, our foreign offices have been found to be out of sorts; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs in view of the above setbacks and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Significant recent developments in the international sphere include events in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, the need to reactivate the Non-Aligned Movement, to srengthen South-South